

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 28, 2006. Claims 22-26 are presented for examination, of which Claims 22-26 are in independent form. Claims 22-26 have been amended to more clearly define the scope of Applicants' invention. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 22, 24 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent No. 10-042068 (Yasumoto). Claim 23 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yasumoto in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,545,768 (Matsubara) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,033,859 (Yamamoto). Claim 26 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yasumoto in view of Japanese Patent No. 357174971A (Kanda).

As shown above, Applicants have amended independent Claims 22-26 in terms that more clearly define what they regard as their invention. Applicants submit that these amended independent claims are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

Claim 22 is directed to a communication apparatus including means for connecting to a public communication line, a scanner for reading an image, means for converting the image read by the scanner to have a predetermined format, and means for executing a sending process to a server connected to the public communication line in a case where it is necessary to send the converted image as an electronic mail to the Internet. The apparatus includes means for registering both a facsimile number and an electronic mail address of a destination for one abbreviation number. Also included in the apparatus are a key corresponding to the one abbreviation number, a key representing facsimile sending, and a key representing electronic mail

sending. The apparatus further includes means for executing the facsimile sending of the read image to the registered facsimile number in a case where the key representing the facsimile sending is depressed pursuant to the one abbreviation number and means for executing the electronic mail sending of the read image to the registered electronic mail address in a case where the key representing the electronic mail sending is depressed pursuant to the one abbreviation number.

The public communication line is a digital communication line capable of simultaneously executing plural communications. The apparatus additionally comprises means for executing the facsimile sending of the read image to the registered facsimile number by using a first communication channel, and means for executing the electronic mail sending of the read image to the registered electronic mail address by using a second communication channel, in a case where the key representing the facsimile sending and the key representing the electronic mail sending are depressed pursuant to the one abbreviation number.

Yasumoto relates to a communication terminal having an abbreviation dial key and/or an easy step key for registering one of a facsimile number or an electronic mail address. Whether a facsimile or an electronic mail is to be sent is determined based on the abbreviated number alone. However, Applicants have found nothing in Yasumoto that would teach or suggest “means for registering both a facsimile number and an electronic mail address of a destination for one abbreviation number,” “means for executing the facsimile sending of the read image to the registered facsimile number in a case where said key representing the facsimile sending is depressed pursuant to the one abbreviation number” or “means for executing the electronic mail sending of the read image to the registered electronic mail address in a case where said key

representing the electronic mail sending is depressed pursuant to the one abbreviation number,” as recited in Claim 22. Indeed, in Yasumoto, in contrast to the present invention, both a facsimile sending key and an electronic mail sending key are unnecessary since whether a facsimile or electronic mail is to be sent is determined based on the abbreviated number alone.

The disclosures of Matsubara, Yamamoto and Kanda do not remedy the deficiencies of Yasumoto. Matsubara relates to communication equipment including a facsimile apparatus 1 and a facsimile apparatus 2 that are connected by an internet leased line and a telephone line. Image data can be transferred between facsimile apparatus 1 and facsimile apparatus 2 through the internet leased line and the telephone line. In designating the transmission destination, a user can enter the facsimile number and electronic mail address of the recipient.

Yamamoto discusses a facsimile apparatus having a simultaneous transmission key for simultaneously transmitting image data to the particular subscribers by operation of the simultaneous transmission key.

Kanda discusses a facsimile apparatus having two CPUs, one for controlling transmission and the other for controlling mechanisms, etc.

However, Applicants have found nothing in Matsubara, Yamamoto or Kanda that would teach or suggest at least the features of “means for registering both a facsimile number and an electronic mail address of a destination for one abbreviation number,” “means for executing the facsimile sending of the read image to the registered facsimile number in a case where said key representing the facsimile sending is depressed pursuant to the one abbreviation number” or “means for executing the electronic mail sending of the read image to the registered electronic mail address in a case where said key representing the electronic mail sending is depressed

pursuant to the one abbreviation number,” as recited in Claim 22..

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants’ opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against Claim 22.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 22 is patentable over the cited prior art whether considered separately or in combination (if any).

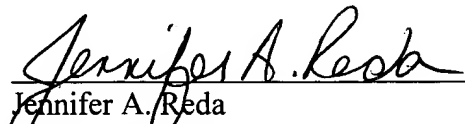
Independent Claims 23-26 recite features similar to those discussed above with respect to Claim 22 and, therefore, are also believed to be patentable over the cited prior art for the reasons discussed above.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


Jennifer A. Reda
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No.: 57,840

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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